

A Message From The Commissioner

February 2004

Cambridge Community,

It is my pleasure to present the Cambridge Police Department's *Annual Crime Report 2003*, the eighth Annual Report produced during my tenure as Commissioner. The objective of this report is to give Cambridge residents a realistic view of their risks of victimization and provide detailed information on criminal activity.

Serious crime in Cambridge experienced a 10% decrease in 2003, the City's lowest Uniform Crime Reporting Index number reported to the FBI in over forty years. In fact, Eisenhower was President the last time fewer than 4000 serious crimes were registered in the City. We are under no illusions that the Cambridge Police are the primary controllers of the crime rate. I would like to credit the continued partnerships between the police, other city agencies and officials, and the community for this great achievement.

We will not be complacent. The Cambridge Police Department is committed to providing the citizens of Cambridge with the highest level of law enforcement services through community policing, proactive strategies and efficient emergency response. The Department will provide this high level of service while respecting the constitutional rights of every person living or visiting the city. Our goal is to develop and sustain viable partnerships with community members and other City agencies that will lead to improved relations and effective problem solving.

Over the past several months, we have begun an important step toward our vision and long-range planning effort for the Cambridge Police Department. The idea for this effort came in talks we had with community leaders, residents, city officials and employees of the department. At that time, we decided the CPD needed a three to five year plan for a first class department. Engaging employees and outside stakeholders is key to getting the understanding and commitment to the plan needed for successful implementation. Major themes identified in the vision plan include continuing to improve community policing, developing a more transparent department, strengthening relationships at all levels of the organization, and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Cambridge.

The *2003 Annual Crime Report* is one of the many resources the Cambridge Police Department provides to the citizens of Cambridge. We believe that we are in the top percentile of police departments in the nation in the quantity and quality of information that we provide to the public on a regular basis, and our Crime Reports have consistently won awards and accolades from international organizations. The Department will remain committed to providing timely and relevant information to the community. I urge you to visit our website at <http://www.cambridgepolice.org> for current information on crime and for important community alerts. Armed with this knowledge, the community and the Police Department can work together to develop effective strategies to ensure a high quality of life and reduce fear in the City of Cambridge.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner